Introduction of new train between Delhi and Guwahati

753. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Passengers Users' Committee has represented to the Railway Ministry several times to introduce more direct trains from New Delhi to Guwahati via Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Sonepur;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the demand to introduce a direct train from New Delhi to Guwahati via Lucknow was raised by local M.Ps. in the recent past; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the present Awadh-Assam Express train upto Delhi and made it a daily train from New Delhi to Guwahati via Lucknow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Loss suffered by the Cochin Shipyard

754. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Shipyard Limited has suffered a loss of about rupees 42 crores, from 1982 to 1986 and the management of the company including the board of directors failed to arrest the trend;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mangement has also not been able to realise the value of the Ships 004 and 005 amounting to Rupees 32 crores each from their owners;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the action being contemplated against erring staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes Sir, including the provisional figures for 1985-86. The losses are inherent in the capital structure of the company, lower capacity utilisation, heavy interest charges on capital as well as working capital and the cost/price gap etc.

(b) and (c) The stage payments were being made by the owners on a provisional price of Rs. 22.50 crores and Rs. 27 crores for Ships 004 and 005 respectively against the price of Rs. 32.527 crores, fixed by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of new airport Salem

755. SHRI THANGABAALU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 587 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposal for the construction of a new airport at Salem in Tamil Nadu during the Seventh Five Year Plan Period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) A proposal for the development of 11 aerodromes, including Salem for Vayudoot operations was included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Since the Seventh Five Year Plan outlay of the Civil Aviation Sector has been pruned down to Rs. 730.21 crores as against the recommended outlay of Rs. 2764.07 crores, all the plan proposals have to be revised and their *inter-se* priority re-determined. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate when Salem project will be taken up.